UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/IT/1983/17
16 October 1984

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

ILLICIT TRAFFIC

New Zealand

A copy of the relevant chapter of the Annual Report for 1983 is communicated herewith.

The present document is based on data provided by States both Parties and non-Parties to the relevant treaties on the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the designations employed and the presentation of material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or any authority, or concerning the delimitation of any frontiers or boundaries.

V.84-92239

CHAPTER VIII. ILLICIT TRAFFIC (Form of Annual Reports E/NL. Form/1983)

Paragraphs

A. GENERAL

90. Illicit traffic in drugs: Yes.

Illicit cultivation, harvesting, manufacture; diversion from licit channels

91a-92b. No.

93a-b. Illicit cultivation of the cannabis plant was detected throughout New Zealand. Helicopter-borne operations and other search activities were launched in order to destroy both illicit cultivation and wild growth of cannabis.

94a-b. No.

95a-b. See 93a-b.

96a-b. Illicit manufacture of morphine and other opiates, cannabis resin and liquid cannabis, phencyclidine and ephedrine was discovered in clandestine laboratories set up in motels and private premises in the urban centres of Auckland and Christchurch. In general only small quantities for personal use were manufactured. Morphine and other opiates were extracted from non-prescription proprietary preparations (Codral Forte tablets). Cannabis resin and liquid cannabis were manufactured from domestic cannabis herb. Illicit manufacture of phencyclidine (PCP) and ephedrine hydrochloride was detected in Auckland. Supplies of precursor chemicals were obtained by purchase from wholesale outlets and the stocks located would have allowed the production of multi-kilo quantities of ephedrine; it is also believed that the person concerned had been producing various synthetic drugs for several years.

97a-b. Prescription drugs were diverted through theft from pharmacies, chemists' shops and warehouses and through forged prescriptions throughout the country.

Smuggling and trafficking

98a-99. In 1983 the predominant means of illegal importation of drugs were post office mails and internal concealment. Several bulk consignments arriving by air- and sea freight were also reported. Traffickers continued to use traditional routes. Southeast Asian and Thai heroin continued to be smuggled into the country either directly or via Australia. The cocaine seized in 1983 was brought in generally directly from the United States of America rather than from South American source countries. Cannabis resin and liquid cannabis were encountered in small quantities throughout the year, the relatively large quantities seized being mainly attributable to two major seizures of liquid cannabis at Wellington and Auckland. An investigation in Wellington resulted in the breaking-up of a well organized syndicate which had imported liquid cannabis from Nepal for several years. In December 1983 two kilos of illegally-imported liquid cannabis were detected in Auckland concealed in a portable organ. Importation of small amounts (up to 100 g) by mail continued to be a popular method of personal supply. A loosely-organized gang using this method was identified in the Taranaki district; heroin seized was analyzed at 79% purity.

100a. Drugs seized in 1983:

	Weight/quantity
Opium	1 g 49 mg
Morphine	439 mg
Heroin	338 g 827 mg
Cocaine	207 g 759 mg
Cannabis	315 kg 846 g
Cannabis resin	7 kg 519 g 86 mg
Liquid cannabis	4 kg 745 g 963 mg
Cannabis plants	47 778 plants
Cannabis seeds	183 g 474 mg
LSD	2 441 doses
Other hallucinogens	73 doses

100b. -

Prices and purity of illicit drugs

101a-b

	Wholesale: NZ$	US$*/
Heroin	1600	1 040 per g
	50	32.50 per dose
Cannabis	15	9.75 per dose
	25 - 30	16.25 - 19.50 per bag
	160	104 per oz. (28 g)
	1 400 - 1 600	910 - 1 040 per lb.(454g)
Cannabis (imported)	200 - 250	130 - 163 per oz.
Cannabis resin	200 - 250	130 - 162.50 per g
Liquid cannabis	40 - 75	26 - 48.75 per cap

Retail: Not recorded.

101c-d. -

Prosecutions

102. A total of 19 794 prosecutions, in terms of charges made for drug-related offences, were reported (figures include multiple charges).

	Number of prosecutions
Opium	8
Morphine	25
Heroin	27
Other opiates	20
Cocaine	43
Cannabis plants and seeds	2 286
Cannabis and cannabis resin	17 239
Psychotropic substances	146

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*/ Rate of exchange: NZ$ 1 = US$ 0.65

103a-b. Mainly males between 17 to 30 years were involved.

104a-b. Foreigners from the following countries were involved: Australia, Singapore, Thailand and the United Kingdom, mainly with regard to heroin, but also in respect of cannabis resin.

B. ORGANIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT

105-109b. See E/IT/1982/22.

Suggestions

110a-b. -